

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 739

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 NAIROBI 10806/1

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV,OCON, UNEP

SUBJ: UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION, INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS

1. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AUGUST 26 AND 27 TO DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF CONFERENCE. NOTE FROM CHAIRMAN STATES "IT IS HOPED THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO PRESENT TO THE PLENARY ON 29 AUGUST WHEN IT TAKES UP ITEM 2 OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA A CONFERENCE ROOM PAPER INCORPORATING THE SUGGESTIONS AGREED AT THE PRESENT DISCUSSIONS ON THE PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONFERENCE".

2. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION, AS SHOWN IN ITEM 2 OF PROVISIONAL AGENDA ARE: A. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK, C. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES AND OTHER SESSIONAL BODIES, D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS OTHER THAN PRESIDENT.

3. CHAIRMAN'S NOTE GOES ON TO STATE THAT: "THE PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS MAY WISH TO SUGGEST A SLATE OF OFFICERS
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FOR THE CONFERENCE ACCORDING TO CUSTOMARY PRACTICES OF THE UNITED NATIONS INCLUDING DUE REGARD BEING PAID TO GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION. WITH THESE CONSIDERATIONS IN MIND, IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ARRIVE AT A LIST OF VICE-PRESIDENTS NOT EXCEEDING FIFTEEN IN NUMBER."

4. ON QUESTION OF CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, CHAIRMAN SUGGESTS

THAT: "IN THE EVENT THAT A DELEGATION FROM A COUNTRY SERVING ON THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION IS NOT AVAILABLE OR IS NOT WILLING TO SERVE ON THE CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE OF THE CONFERENCE, THE VACANCY THUS ARISING SHOULD BE FILLED PREFERABLY BY ANOTHER STATE FROM THE SAME AREA."

5. CHAIRMAN SUGGESTS DESIRABILITY OF RECOMMENDING TIME-LIMIT ON SPEECHES, AND IN THIS CONNECTION PROPOSES FOOTNOTE TO RULE 18 LIMITING REPRESENTATIVE OF EACH STATE TO 15 MINUTES AND OTHER PARTICIPANTS TO 10 MINUTES, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF SEVERAL STATES PERMITTED TO POOL THEIR LIMITS AND REALLOCATE AMONG THEM.

6. FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTED CHANGES TO THE PROVISIONAL RULES OF PROCEDURE AND PROPOSED NEW RULES:

CHAPTER II A - GENERAL COMMITTEE

RULE (A) - COMPOSITION -- THERE SHALL BE A GENERAL COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE PRESIDENT, THE VICE-PRESIDENTS, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND THE RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL. THE PRESIDENT, OR IN HIS ABSENCE ONE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS DESIGNATED BY HIM, SHALL SERVE AS CHAIRMAN OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MAY PARTICIPATE, UNCLASSIFIED

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WITHOUT THE RIGHT TO VOTE, IN MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

RULE 9 (B) - FUNCTIONS -- IN ADDITION TO CARRYING OUT OTHER FUNCTIONS PROVIDED IN THESE RULES, THE GENERAL COMMITTEE SHALL ASSIST THE PRESIDENT IN THE GENERAL CONDUCT OF THE BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE AND, SUBJECT TO DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE, SHALL ENSURE THE CO-ORDINATION OF ITS WORK.

CHAPTER III A - CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

RULE 12 (A) - REPORT -- THE CONFERENCE SHALL ADOPT A REPORT, THE DRAFT OF WHICH SHALL BE PREPARED BY THE RAPPORTEUR-GENERAL.

RULE 13 - QUORUM -- THE PRESIDENT MAY DECLARE A MEETING OPEN AND PERMIT THE DEBATE TO PROCEED WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF AT LEAST ONE THIRD OF THE STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ARE PRESENT. THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF A MAJORITY OF THE STATES SO PARTICIPATING SHALL BE REQUIRED FOR ANY DECISION TO BE TAKEN.

PROPOSED NEW RULES

RULE 19 - CLOSING OF LIST OF SPEAKERS: -- DURING THE COURSE OF A DEBATE THE PRESIDENT MAY ANNOUNCE THE LIST

OF SPEAKERS AND, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CONFERENCE,
DECLARE THE LIST CLOSED. WHEN THERE ARE NO MORE SPEAKERS,
THE PRESIDENT SHALL, WITH THE CONSENT OF THE CONFERENCE,
DECLARE THE DEBATE CLOSED. SUCH CLOSURE SHALL HAVE THE
SAME EFFECT AS CLOSURE PUSUANT TO RULE 21.

RULE 19 (A) - RIGHT OF REPLY: -- THE RIGHT OF REPLY SHALL
BE ACCORDED BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
ANY STATE PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE WHO REQUESTS
IT. ANY OTHER REPRESENTATIVE MAY BE GRANTED THE OPPOR-
TUNITY TO MAKE A REPLY. EPRESENTATIVES SHOULD ATTEMPT
TO BE AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLEIN THEIR REPLIES AND PREFER-
ABLY TO DELIVER THEIR STATEMENT AT THE END OF THE MEETING
AT WHICH THIS RIGHT IS REQUESTED OR AT THE END OF THE DAY.

RULE 32 - EXPLANATION OF VOTE: -- REPRESENTATIVES MAY MAKE
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BRIEF STATEMENTS CONSISTING SOLELY OF EXPLANATION OF
THEIR VOTES, BEFORE THE VOTING HAS COMMENCED OR AFTER
THE VOTING HAS BEEN COMPLETED. THE REPRESENTATIVE OF
A STATE SPONSORING A PROPOSAL OR MOTION SHALL NOT SPEAK
IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE THEREON EXCEPT IF IT HAS BEEN
AMENDED.

47)3 32 (A) - CONDUCT DURING VOTING: -- THE PRESIDENT

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SHALL ANNOUNCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF VOTING, AFTER WHICH NO REPRESENTATIVE SHALL BE PERMITTED TO INTERVENE UNTIL THE RESULT OF THE VOTE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED, EXCEPT ON A POINT OF ORDER IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROCESS OF VOTING.

RULE 37: 1) WHEN ONE OR MORE ELECTIVE PLACES ARE TO BE FILLED AT ONE TIME UNDER THE SAME CONDITIONS, THOSE CANDIDATES, IN A NUMBER NOT EXCEEDING THE NUMBER OF SUCH PLACES, OBTAINING IN THE FIRST BALLOT A MAJORITY OF THE VOTES CAST AND THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VOTES, SHALL BE ELECTED.

2) IF THE NUMBER OF CANDIDATES OBTAINING SUCH MAJORITY IS LESS THAN THE NUMBER OF PLACES TO BE FILLED, ADDITIONAL BALLOTS SHALL BE HELD TO FILL THE REMAINING PLACES.

RULE 42 - OFFICERS, CONDUCT OF BUSINESS AND VOTING:

(C) A MAJORITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE GENERAL OR CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OR ON ANY WORKING GROUP SHALL CONSTITUTE A QUORUM.; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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WHILE MAY DECLARE A MEETING OPEN AND PERMIT THE DEBATE TO PROCEED WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF AT LEAST ONE QUARTER OF THE STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE ARE PRESENT,

CHAPTER IX - OTHER PARTICIPANTS

RULE 50 (A) - REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA: -- REPRESENTATIVES DESIGNATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE, THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AND ANY WORKING GROUP THEREOF. THEY SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO MAKE STATEMENTS BOTH ORALLY AND IN WRITING AND TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS.

CHAPTER X - AMENDMENT OR SUSPENSION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

RULE 59 - METHOD OF AMENDMENT: -- THESE RULES MAY BE AMENDED BY A DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE TAKEN BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT AND VOTING UPON A RECOMMENDATION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

RULE 60 - METHOD OF SUSPENSION: -- THESE RULES MAY BE SUSPENDED BY A DECISION OF THE CONFERENCE, PROVIDED THAT 24 HOURS' NOTICE OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THE SUSPENSION HAS BEEN GIVEN WHICH MAY BE WAIVED IF NO REPRESENTATIVE OBJECTS, SUBSIDIARY ORGANS MAY BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT WAIVE RULES PERTAINING TO THEM. ANY SUSPENSION SHALL BE LIMITED

TO A SPECIFIC AND STATE PURPOSE AND TO THE PERIOD REQUIRED
TO ACHIEVE IT.

7. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS BY OPENING OF
BUSINESS AUGUST 26.

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Message Attributes

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